

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element is configured in the shape of a wedge.

3. (WITHDRAWN) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said support element has a triangular cross-section.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said support element has a quadrilateral cross-section.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element is made of expanded polystyrene.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element includes at least one groove formed in its bottom surface.

7. (WITHDRAWN) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising arch sections.

8. (AMENDED) A roof tile support system, comprising:

a roofing surface;

a plurality of roof tiles; and

a plurality of independent support elements positioned between and in contact with both of said roofing surface and said roof tiles, wherein said support elements support said roof tiles so as to increase the load capacities of said roof tiles, and wherein each support element is configured to support at least three roof tiles of any shape in a single course.

9. (AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support element is made of a lightweight material.

10. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roofing surface comprises a roof deck with battens.

11. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are made of lightweight concrete.

12. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are separate pieces from said roof tiles and said roofing surface.

13. (AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein each of said support elements supports four or more roof tiles in a single course.

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14. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements have a large surface area for contacting a substantial portion of the area under said roof tiles.

15. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are wedge-shaped.

16. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have arch sections, and said roof tiles are barrel roof tiles.

17. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a triangular cross-section.

18. The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a quadrilateral cross-section.

19. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are made of expanded polystyrene.

20. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows and a first row is supported by said support elements such that the roof tiles of the first row are elevated some distance above a second adjacent row of said roof tiles.

21. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements and said roofing surface.

22. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows and a first row is supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements, said roofing surface and a second row of roof tiles.

23. (AMENDED) A method of installing roof tile supports, comprising:
first, placing a support element on a roofing surface;
then, placing a first roof tile on said support element such that at least a central portion of an underside of said roof tile is substantially supported by the support element; and
finally, securing said roof tile to said roofing surface.

24. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein a second roof tile is placed directly on at least a portion of the support element adjacent the first roof tile.

25. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 24, wherein a third tile is placed directly on the support element adjacent the second tile.

26. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein said first roof tile is placed on said support element such that said first roof tile does not contact a roof tile in an adjacent lower course.

27. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with both said roofing surface and said support element.

28. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, further including a second roof tile, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with said roofing surface, said support element, and said second roof tile.

29. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein securing said first roof tile to said roofing surface comprises driving a nail through said first roof tile into said roofing surface.

30. (AMENDED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 29, wherein said nail also passes through a portion of said support element.

31. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, further including a second support element, wherein said second support element is positioned to the side of said first support element so as to leave a gap between the two elements.

32. (NEW) The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body comprises a width of about seven and a half inches, a front surface height of about one and an eighth inches, and a rear surface height of about three eighths of an inch.

33. (NEW) The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body has a width of about eleven inches, and a front surface height of about one and an eighth inches.

34. (NEW) The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body has a width of about eleven inches, and a front surface height of about one and seven eighths inches.

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35. (NEW) A support element for use in a roofing system, the support element comprising:

a substantially solid, lightweight body having at least a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface, and a pair of side surfaces;

wherein the top and bottom surfaces are substantially planar and non-parallel to one another;

wherein the body has a length sufficient to support a plurality of roof tiles of a single course.

36. (NEW) The support element of Claim 35, wherein the body comprises a rear surface having a height less than a height of the front surface, and wherein a height of the rear surface is about an inch or less.

REMARKS

With this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, and 18-36 are pending in the present application, Claims 3, 7, 16, and 17 have been withdrawn, Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 23-27, 29, and 30 have been amended, and new claims 32-36 have been added to more completely define the invention. The specific changes to the claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined while the ~~deletions are stricken through~~.

Examiner Interview

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on September 10, 2002 in which potentially allowable subject matter was discussed. During the interview, Applicant's representative enumerated some of the differences between the subject matter of the present application and the prior art of record. As pointed out in the Examiner's summary of the interview, some of the advantages include: use of the present support element with any concrete tile, field-adjustability of the present support element, and the use of a single support element to support a plurality of roof tiles. Although no agreement was reached as to specific claim language, Applicant is grateful for the opportunity to discuss the Application.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112